

of vital importance to the efficiency of soldiers; but to gain the mastery of this invaluable attribute it is necessary to have some more permanent and solid means for its acquisition than can be found in the bustle of a short Camp of Exercise however useful and instructive Brigade Camps admittedly are.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. SELBY SMYTH,

Major General.

[A.]

OTTAWA, Nov. 17, 1875.

To the Honorable

The Secretary of State.

Ottawa.

SIR,—Having returned on Monday last from my recent expedition across the continent on a tour of military inspection, it becomes my first duty to report to you that, in obedience to the instructions contained in your letter to me, dated 24th June last, I visited the several outposts occupied by the United States Army in Montana as well as in Washington and Oregon Territories, with the view of conferring with the General Officers commanding, respecting the repression of crime and capture of criminals on both sides of the International boundary, and of obtaining their cooperation on this important question. I reached Fort Shaw in Montana previous to the receipt by Brigadier General Gibbon of any instructions from the American War Department regarding my proposed official visit.

On my arrival, some weeks later, in the Washington Territory, Major General Howard had received notice of my probable visit, from the United States Army Head Quarters.

The result of my conference with these General Officers I shall shortly report to you for the information of His Excellency the Governor General as directed.

My object in addressing you now, is to take the earliest opportunity of expressing the extreme kindness, and polite attention, officially as well as socially which were warmly and cordially extended to me and my staff by the Generals and other officers of the United States Army, whose acquaintance we had the pleasure and good fortune to make.

At Fort Shaw, though not there officially accredited as I have stated, Brigadier General Gibbon offered me the hospitalities of his house and readily entered into an examination of the subjects which I laid before him.

At Walla-Walla Major General Howard at once called upon me officially, attended by a numerous suite of Officers, and upon my returning his visit next day, the usual

salute for a Major General was fired from the battery on the Fort. The officers of the post gave me a hospitable reception in the evening, their band playing "God save the Queen."

I had the pleasure of travelling afterwards for several days with Major General Howard, and on passing Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River, the usual salute was fired from a Field Battery, all the Officers of the Garrison assembling on the landing-place in full dress to receive me and my staff, the bands here and as well as at Walla-Walla playing the British National Anthem.

I feel it my duty and especially a great gratification to place on official record the warm and friendly feeling exhibited on every occasion of my tour by the American Officers to the first British General who had ever visited the remote N. W. Territories of their country on official duty.

My hearty thanks are due to them as an English General Officer and as a friend, and in officially recording these very gratifying reminiscences I trust His Excellency will do me the honor to convey to the American Government my sincere appreciation of so much kindly good-will on the part of their Army which I entirely reciprocate.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. SELBY SMYTH,

Major-General.

OTTAWA, 19th November, 1875.

To the Honorable

The Secretary of State.

SIR,—In obedience to the instructions conveyed in your letter of 24th June last. I have now the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor General and the Dominion Government that in the progress of my Official tour of inspection through the North West Territory and British Columbia, I visited the Head Quarters of the United States General Officers Commanding in Montana and also in the Territories of Washington and Oregon, with the object of conferring with them according to your desire regarding the repression of crime and capture of criminals, as well as the questions relating to the peace of the frontier of the Canadian and American possessions.

I proceeded from Fort McLeod at the base of the Rocky Mountains to Fort Shaw in Montana, a distance of 250 miles, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner McLeod commanding the detachments of the Mounted Police in the western division of the North West Territory, and from him I learnt the nature of the measures most likely to conduce to a more settled state of affairs along the frontiers.

Brigadier General Gibbon commanding in Montana had not then received instructions respecting my visit from the U. S. War Department, he nevertheless received me cordially and conferred with me frankly.

The following is the result of our conference ;

1. It is desirable that stealing of horses or other cattle or stock of any description should be included in the Extradition treaty.

2. To simplify the mode of procedure in the apprehension and custody of fugitives from either country.

The complicated and dilatory practice now in use is as follows—for instance in the case of an offender against Canadian laws who may have taken refuge in the United States :

On representation to the Canadian Government by one of their magistrates, an application has to be made to Washington Government to obtain an order to have the fugitive extradited and apprehended, then the Canadian Government appoints an agent to have the extradition carried out, this agent then applies through the American Civil authorities for a warrant to arrest the fugitive. On this being effected an examination takes place before a Judge or Commissioner who makes a preliminary examination as to whether there is sufficient evidence to commit the prisoner for trial. If he considers there is sufficient evidence then he commits the fugitive to gaol where he can be held for two months pending the order of the Washington Government for extradition or release, the evidence taken having been sent to the Washington Government or their Law Officers for consideration as to the amount of evidence and whether the alleged crime comes within the terms of the treaty; the prisoner is then, as the case may be, released or handed over to the Canadian authorities on demand and tried in the country where the crime is alleged to have been committed.

But an American Commissioner has lately held that in such cases it required the same amount of evidence for the first committal of a prisoner under extradition as it would in ordinary cases for conviction. In a country so vast, with communication so slow and interrupted it would be nearly impossible to effect this and the ends of justice would therefore as a consequence be frequently defeated ; moreover it would, appear by United States Revised Statutes, Sec. 5271, that copies of depositions may be received in evidence of the criminality of persons so apprehended, which of course could not be received in a final trial, and therefore it is very necessary that clear and definite instructions should be issued upon such questions.

To simplify the foregoing complicated and very dilatory method of procedure which at the shortest occupies 3 months before any steps can be taken even to apprehend the fugitive, who may in the meantime escape to some remote or inaccessible region and so elude pursuit, it is proposed that an Officer of the Country in which the crime is alleged to have been committed shall have full authority to apply

at once and direct to the nearest available Civil or Military Officer or Indian Agent of the country to which the fugitive escapes for his arrest and that the preliminary examination shall take place immediately thereafter, the amount of evidence to hold the prisoner being regulated by the statutes of the respective countries, and it should be distinctly enacted that the amount of evidence required to commit a prisoner for extradition should be the same only as that required, by a Justice of the peace in ordinary cases to commit a prisoner for trial, and should be so defined as to admit of no doubt.

The same change in the law is very desirable to apply to the countries lying along the whole frontier from Ocean to Ocean.

Assistant Commissioner McLeod, who has had much experience already as to the repression of crime and the great difficulty attending the capture of fugitives from Canada, assures me that if these suggestions were adopted by the two governments, the difficulties now attending the capture of criminals would be removed as far as it is practicable in such a spacious country, prompt action against marauders and certain capture and punishment being so conducive to the prevention of illegalities of every kind and the establishment of law and order.

In the foregoing opinions and suggestions Brigadier General Gibbon coincided with me.

A few weeks later in the month of October, on my passing through the Washington and Oregon Territories, I had the pleasure of meeting with Major General Howard who commands that department, and with him I had intimate relations and frank interchange of views during several days travel together. He is of opinion that in addition to the foregoing propositions, in which he also concurred, desertion from the Military and Naval services of both Countries should be included in the extradition treaty, and that the suggestions for simplifying the capture of fugitives should be extended to that crime.

In Alaska for instance, it frequently occurs that American criminals escape into British territory, and the impossibility of recapture actually induces and fosters crime in that Country. The military officer is *ex officio* Indian Agent and if he could apply directly to the nearest British official for the capture and preliminary examination of the fugitives, the course of justice would be immensely facilitated and crime through fear of certain capture and punishment would be correspondingly diminished. Precisely the same circumstances apply to the whole frontier of British Columbia.

It would be very desirable if an arrangement could be mutually agreed upon by the two Governments by which the civil authorities of either Country actually in pursuit of a suspected criminal should have authority upon reaching the boundary line to cross it and on making the capture to hand the prisoner over to the nearest known authority of the Country in which the capture is made. This should of course only apply to the as yet thinly peopled and only partially settled portions of

the Country along the western frontiers, perhaps defined from Lake Superior along the whole line west to the Pacific and thence North to Alaska. By these means many a well known offender of either Country who now runs across the frontier and sets his pursuers at open defiance would be brought to justice and the knowledge that such power was possessed by the Authorities of the Law would of itself diminish if not entirely extinguish illegal practices, on both sides of the international boundary.

With reference to our relations with the outlying American territory of Alaska, I may here adduce a case which occurred a few days before my arrival at Portland (Oregon) and which was brought to my notice by Major General Howard, U. S. A., at Portland, in support of his suggestion.

The Officer of the U. S. Army in command at Fort Wrangel, Alaska, reported in September last the arrest of Henry Landerson, Edward Flannery and Col. Mandeville for violation of Acts of Congress regulating trade and intercourse with Indian tribes and prohibiting the introduction of spirituous liquors into the Indian settlements in Alaska.

The prisoners were forwarded under a military escort by steamship "California" to Portland (Oregon) with certain documentary evidence to be delivered to the United States Civil Authorities, in proof of their crime, and to be used at their trial.

On the arrival of the ship at Nanaimo, Vancouver's Island, under the apprehension the prisoners might escape to British soil, they were ordered below between decks. All complied except Mandeville, who then and there for the first time claimed to be a British subject and demanded to be released, at the same time refusing to obey the order to go below. The prisoner appealed to the Collector of the port of Nanaimo and to Captain Hayes, of the "California," demanding his release and threatening prosecution in case his demand was not complied with. He endeavoured to create sympathy among the inhabitants of Nanaimo and the miners and passengers on board to induce them to assist him. He was then handcuffed and placed in the steerage. There were many passengers including 80 miners on board the ship, and to them Mandeville stated he was a British subject and had been arrested by the Military Authorities of the United States.

Upon arrival at Portland these men were all discharged by Civil Authority. The United States District Attorney stated they had violated the law; still the offence was so purely technical they were not held. Mandeville has consequently brought an action against Lieut. Boyle and the guard for false imprisonment, damages at 25,000 dollars.

The whole question of the legality of arrest of residents in Alaska, whatever Country they may belong to and of their delivery to the United States Civil Authorities in Portland, under the statutes of Congress relating to trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, especially under the sections relating to

the introduction of spirituous liquors, is very likely to come up in the trial of this case. Major General Howard was therefore anxious this case should be referred to in my report in order that precise and definite rules should be adopted by the two governments, not only respecting the introduction of spirituous liquors into the Indian Territory of Alaska, through British soil, but also as regards the capture and detention of British subjects found violating the laws in Alaska, in the hope that military officers who in pursuance of their duty capture offenders other than American subjects, may not be liable to prosecution at law merely in retaliation. And this applies equally on both sides, for I believe at this moment Lt.-Colonel McLeod is subject to a similar prosecution by a citizen of the United States for making him a prisoner upon a charge of which he was acquitted in a United States Court at Helena, through some legal technicality, though little doubt existed at the time as to his guilt.

More simple laws are required for the capture and punishment of criminals, and offenders against the laws, upon the vast and spacious prairies of the North West and in the mountainous and densely wooded countries of British Columbia and Alaska, where the population is very sparse and cosmopolitan, than in more settled and populous regions where the arrest of offenders is more easily effected, the attendance of evidences more easily procured.

Lt.-Colonel McLeod will in the case in point be obliged to attend personally at Helena, a distance from his post of full 400 miles across the bleak prairies, along the spurs of the Rocky Mountains in the depth of winter, to defend himself against a prosecution for an act which occurred in the execution of his duty, and so his useful services with his force will be lost for several months.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. SELBY SMYTH,

Major-General.

[B]

OTTAWA,

November 27, 1875.

SIR,

1. In compliance with the instructions contained in your confidential letter to me dated 24th June last, wherein I am directed in the progress of my tour through the North West Territories to visit as many as possible of the Mounted Police Posts and to make special inquiry into certain points therein detailed, bearing upon the organization, equipment, distribution, and general efficiency of the Force, I have now the honor to report to you that after my return in June from reorganizing the Militia in Prince Edward Island, and having proceeded Westward, to inspect the various Brigades of Militia encamped in Ontario, I embarked at Sarnia on the 2nd July and, passing up Lakes Huron and Superior I reached Fort Garry by way of Duluth, Moorhead and the Red River on the 15th, and after making the necessary inspections there, I finally departed for the Prairies on the 19th of that month, travelling the first 200 miles in vehicles which had been provided for myself and staff as far as Shoal Lake, where I met with the first outpost of the Mounted Police.

2. From this point I travelled throughout the North West Territories and across the Rocky Mountains, full 1500 miles, escorted by a party of the Mounted Police until they were relieved at Joseph's Prairie in the Kootenay district under arrangements made by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia for my further progress to Vancouver's Island.

3. As I have referred in the outset to my general summer's tour of inspection, I may say shortly, it embraced a distance, by the routes travelled in going and returning, of full 11,000 miles, of which upwards of 2000 were performed on horseback.

4. The general opinions I have been able to form of the North West Mounted Police, have been greatly influenced by the experience I acquired of them on my line of march through the country, I shall now therefore shortly allude to it.

5. From Shoal Lake post I proceeded direct to Swan River, about 140 miles, and on the morning of my arrival there I was overtaken by Lieutenant Cotton, an officer of the Manitoba Artillery bearing despatches to me from the Lieutenant Governor of that province.

6. The nature of these despatches was such that after a conference with the commandant, Lieutenant Colonel French, I determined to take a force of 50 Mounted Police from Swan River to Carlton, as a party of observation.

7. My reason for coming to this decision arose from the important nature of the information conveyed in the despatches, and though my impression was that the report was somewhat overdrawn, I had no possible means, so far removed from

telegraphic or postal communication, to test the facts of the case except by going to see for myself.

8. I accordingly marched the following afternoon accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel French and 50 of his men. We crossed the south branch of the Saskatchewan and reached Carlton House on the 8th day, a distance of 270 miles from Swan River, being the first armed force which had ever appeared there, or crossed the Saskatchewan.

9. The result of my investigation, I had the honor to report to you at the time, I shall therefore only say that I consider the sudden and unannounced arrival of this force had the best possible moral effect, proving so convincingly that power lay within easy reach to enforce the Laws upon the slightest infraction, a fact of which the inhabitants of St. Laurent and other settlements around Carlton were up to that time in ignorance.

10. Leaving the troop of Mounted Police at Carlton, I crossed the North branch of the Saskatchewan the following day, and proceeded by way of Forts Pitt and Victoria towards Edmonton, 400 miles; but being delayed a day at Sturgeon Creek, a deep and rapid stream, in order to construct rafts for its passage, I recrossed the Saskatchewan the same afternoon at the new post established by Inspector Jarvis.

11. From thence Edmonton lies about 20 miles south; the reasons why the Police Post was fixed at this point I shall refer to further on.

12. Proceeding south, 120 miles, I crossed the Battle and Red Deer River, and at the latter found another troop of Police which had been with judgment moved to that point on learning the rumours afloat about the Carlton affair.

13. I inspected this troop the same afternoon, and next morning, marching south, Lieutenant-Colonel McLeod, the Assistant-Commissioner who had been waiting for me, detached the troop to a position on the Bow River, where a new police post is now established.

14. Approaching Bow River I crossed the line of route of a band of about 200 Blackfoot Indians, amongst whom were Crowfoot, the paramount, and four other chiefs of more or less note. They at once, on perceiving me riding with the guide some miles in advance of my party, galloped towards me, and, on ascertaining who, I was, welcomed me with every expression and sign of sincerity and good will.

15. Crowfoot begged me to encamp there with his people to have a talk, but I declined, urging my desire to reach Bow River that night, on which the Chiefs determined to accompany me, and they did so, after dressing themselves in their best apparel.

16. Round a large council fire on the high cliffs, at whose base runs the broad and rapid Bow River, these Chiefs received myself and staff after night fall, and with the solemn dignity of their race they each in turn delivered a speech, the sum of

which was in effect the great satisfaction they derived from the presence of the Mounted Police in their country, the security and peace that had succeeded to anarchy, disorder, and drunkenness, the prosperity which had replaced poverty and want;—that whereas in former times their young men were the victims of unscrupulous traders who bartered ardent spirits for their horses and buffalo robes, by which they were reduced to squalor, misery and crime—now that the infamous liquor trade had been completely put an end to by the presence and activity of the police, all this was changed for prosperity and contentment as well as security for life and property, horse-stealing had become rare, because now the young men could procure what horses they required in exchange for buffalo robes, they could lie down in their lodges at night feeling security from depredation.

17. All this and much more did these calm and thoughtful old chiefs express to me, indicative of the respect and high estimation in which they held the new force the Government had been pleased to send among them.

18. They asked me in turn to speak for them to the Government in order that the Land question might be settled and treaties arranged, such, as they understood, had been granted to the Eastern Prairie Indians, and this I promised them to do, giving them distinctly to understand that "Mahagauensuma," the "Great Soldier Master," as they termed me, was not charged with questions of that nature, but that I should be most happy to be the medium of expressing their wishes to the Government, whose great aim and object was to extend uniform justice and deal fairly by all the Indian tribes in whom Her Majesty the Queen took a great interest.

19. They were pleased and contented, and after expressing their gratification at seeing myself, the first General Officer who had ever passed through their land, and offering to make a new road for me if I should return next year, I bid them goodnight, they had their supper and tobacco close to my tent, upon which the British flag was flying, and before day-light in the morning they had all departed.

20. But a short time ago the Blackfeet Indians would have been very unwelcome guests in a small camp during the dark hours of the night.

21. The passage of the Bow River occupied the whole of the following day, it is broad and rapid and crossing camp equipment and men by means of temporary rafts is attended with much delay and considerable risk, in fact on this occasion two men narrowly escaped drowning owing to the sinking of one of the rafts, in the middle of this violent torrent.

22. Proceeding south I passed over a bleak and rather barren prairie land entirely devoid of timber or even shrubs, our camp-kettles being boiled on fires constituted of buffalo chips only.

23. After 200 miles travel over this pathless waste and crossing several minor streams by the way, we reached Fort McLeod, the most remote of all the Police posts,

situated on the old Man's River, a few miles south-east from the Porcupine Hills, and 50 miles due east from the entrance of the so-called Kootenay Pass, through the Rocky Mountains.

24. I shall refer specially to this and the other Police posts further on.

25. Leaving my staff to proceed towards the Kootenay Pass to await my return, I proceeded after one day's halt, in company with assistant-commissioner McLeod, to pay a visit to the United States General Officer commanding in Montana, in obedience to instructions from the Secretary of State, to whom I have had the honor to furnish a special report on the result of my conference with Brigadier General Gibbon at Fort Shaw, 250 miles from Fort McLeod, as well as my further conference with Major General Howard some weeks later, on passing through his department in the territories of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

26. I refer to this subject here, as the questions on which I had to treat related to the suppression of crime on the frontier, and the capture of criminals and plunderers on both sides of the International boundary, a duty in which the Mounted Police are largely interested.

27. I am in great hopes the result of my conferences may tend to facilitate and simplify the duties of this force which has already proved so efficient by the moral effect of its presence as well as by the keen activity and prudence of some of the officers in command.

28. Returning with Lt.-Col. MacLeod towards the passes of the Rocky Mountains, along their eastern slopes, and past the base of Chief Mountain we saw some of the monuments erected recently by the Boundary Commissioners; these, constructed of loose stones, have been nearly demolished by the buffaloes. We threw as many of the stones on their piles as time permitted, but I venture to mention that unless more durable monuments are quickly erected, the buffalo will soon leave few to mark the spots.

29. In crossing Birch Creek in the vicinity of the Marias we found 170 lodges of South Peigan Indians, numbering about 700 people. With these I passed an evening similar to that with the Blackfeet and heard nearly the same sentiments towards the Police and myself. They were going north to hunt the buffalo, and spoke in loud praise of the now settled and peaceful state of the Country north of the boundary line. A treaty of peace has recently been formed between these people, the Assiniboinos and the Blackfeet, through the instrumentality of Inspector Walsh at Cypress Hills, which these Indians assured me they intended to observe inviolate and which will produce a prospect of peace probably unknown in that country through all past time.

30. At the eastern entrance of the Kootenay, or, as it is generally termed there, the Elk River Pass, we reached our standing camp, where our transport wagons were

exchanged for pack-horses of the Mounted Police, by means of which we penetrated the mountains, and after a rough journey of 200 miles through dense forest, over two precipitous mountain ranges, amidst a network of fallen timber, intersected by dangerous morasses, we eventually crossed the Elk and Kootenny Rivers, and reached Joseph's Prairie, 12 miles from Wild Horse Creek, where the duties of the Mounted Police, as regarded our further progress, ceased. We crossed from thence to Vancouver Island by arrangement of the Lieutenant Gouvernor of British Columbia, but finding from all sources of information at Kootenay, that it would be dangerous, if not impracticable to attempt to cross many miles of quagmire and muskeg, and to climb the rugged and broken passes of Shepherds Mountain, which lies between the bends of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers, moreover without any means for crossing those turbulent rivers on that route, it was therefore necessary to proceed 200 miles south to Spokane, in United States Territory, in order to turn this mountain and morass. I consequently determined with the view of saving expense to the Government for transport and hired packmen to strike south 200 miles, further to Walla-Walla, rather than to return 200 miles north from Spokane for the sake of passing through the only 140 miles remaining of British Territory, between the point where the boundary line would be intersected and Hope on the Frazer River.

31. Captain Ward, one of my Staff for the expedition, kindly undertook to proceed by that route at his own expense from Spokane and to make me acquainted with any items of consequence, but I found on his rejoining me at Victoria, that there was nothing of any importance to relate.

32. By taking the Walla-Walla route by the line of the Lower Columbia, I was fortunate enough to have much interchange of opinion with Major General Howard on the subject of mutual action against criminals of both countries.

33. Before quitting this little narrative of my journey with the Mounted Police, may I be permitted to record how very completely the considerate, and well matured, arrangements of the Department of Justice for the progress of myself and Staff, were executed by the Officers of the Mounted Police and by the men and horses of the escort which accompanied me for about 1500 miles over a rough country interrupted frequently by deep rivers, by rugged hills and precipitous ravines, by swamps and morasses, trying to horses as well as men.

34. Through all that long and toilsome march, day by day, this escort never flagged, always ready, willing, and obedient, untiring in their exertions, which sometimes called for much endurance. If I were to judge of the Mounted Police force as a body, by that little escort, which was not composed of selected men, they deserve a very high character from me.

My staff on the expedition was composed of Captain the Honorable M. Stapleton Coldstream Guards, A.D.C.; Captain Ward, A.D.C. to his Excellency the Governor

General, and Lieutenant the Honorable T. Fitzwilliam, A.D.C., Royal Horse Guards, and afterwards joined by the Honorable Evelyn Ellis, late Royal Navy.

THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE FORCE IN RESPECT OF NUMBERS, DISCIPLINE, AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING HORSES, ARMS, SADDLERY, MEANS OF TRANSPORT, &C.

35. The Force consists of 29 officers and 300 men and horses; the Commander is termed Commissioner, and his second in command, Assistant Commissioner, the remaining officers are respectively inspectors and sub-inspectors, and the men designated constables and sub-constables, the former answering to the status of non-commissioned officers.

36. The Force is divided into 6 Divisions of 50 men each; it may be considered fairly sufficient for the duties it is at present called upon to perform.

37. The moral effect of its presence has already produced a wholesome improvement in the condition of the wandering tribes of the prairies, and the nomadic inhabitants of the North-West generally, and caused a feeling of security throughout the settlements of the Territory.

38. For a newly raised force, hastily enrolled and equipped, it is in very fair order—its organization is based upon sound principles, but there is room for improvement in several respects on which I represent herewith a confidential report.

39. It will be readily understood that in the detached state of the Force so much time having been occupied in providing shelter for men and horses it has hitherto been next to impossible to bestow proper attention on discipline, interior economy equitation, the care of horses, saddlery, equipment and the duties of constables—all of which are quite indispensable.

40. I consider that men should be recruited from the rural districts, a few only for clerks &c., to be taken from Towns. The decayed gentleman is a failure. They should be active young men, sons of farmers accustomed to face all kind of weather and rough work as well as to the use of horses, this element is badly wanted in the Force.

41. I might also observe that many of the men at present are of too heavy a build for the strength of their horses.

42. The horses are however a very fair average lot. They have been generally purchased in Ontario.

43. I should much prefer selecting them from rural districts than from horse dealers and sale stables. A better, sounder, and cheaper description of horse could thus be obtained.

44. There are some native ponies, and though these animals cannot be expected to carry men with arms and accoutrements for any great distance, yet they are useful for various purposes, particularly late in the fall or in the winter.

45. I think a useful and cheap sort of horse can be procured in Montana and also in Washington and Idaho territories.

46. I used some excellent sure-footed and good constituted Mountain Galloways in British Columbia this year which cost only 50 dollars a piece at Walla-Walla.

47. The necessity of carrying oats for horses is one of the weakest points of the force. Without oats, horses soon fall out of condition, become weak, and knock up; grass alone is not sufficiently nourishing for horses accustomed to oats, when hard worked; some of the prairie grass is dry and without nutriment, in other parts it is rich and mingled with wild vetches.

48. It is absolutely necessary to grow oat crops as largely as possible in the North West. Every post should have some hundred acres under tillage for producing cereals and vegetables.

TRANSPORT.

49. The question of transport is one of considerable importance not only as regards the efficiency of the force, and its readiness to take the field at any moment, but also in respect of supplies of every kind, which at present, including oats, have to be carried many hundred miles, through a country which is only open for wheel transport for 6 or 7 months of the year. My suggestions on this subject are also contained in the confidential report.

50. I am persuaded it will be found necessary very soon to establish a large supply granary and depot in some central position in the North West, from which not only the police, but all the Government surveying, and exploring parties, as well as those engaged in geological research, running telegraph lines or building railways, could obtain supplies.

51. The time lost in drawing supplies in small quantities over the many hundred miles from Winnipeg would be saved if one or two years supply was always in the Central depot, its position being the only question to decide.

DISCIPLINE.

52. Till the recent changes in the law, the proper maintenance of discipline was attended with difficulty, flogging being the only means of punishment. There are now full powers to fine or imprison ill-conducted men, consequently the general conduct of the men is very satisfactory, and punishment need rarely be resorted to.

COMPLAINTS.

53. I took occasion whilst among the police to enquire whether there were any complaints. I publicly on parade, after inspections, asked the question, not a man ever came forward, but on going round the men's dinners at Fort McLeod, when asking the usual question, I was told there was a claim to which the men thought themselves entitled. It was this, last winter, when 3 troops were left on Old Man's River to house themselves and their horses, they were obliged to purchase extra clothing, the blankets and clothing supplied by the Government were not sufficient protection against the rigorous weather to which they were exposed before getting lodged in the huts which they built, the labour of building and hewing wood was severe on the clothing also, which had been bought in Montana.

54. In other respects I think the men generally are contented, all that I saw appeared merry and light hearted, and the eagerness they showed to accompany the party with me to Carlton, and afterwards through the passes of the Rocky Mountains, in itself indicates their love for an adventurous prairie life.

55. I have conversed with several of them, each expressed themselves content with their lot, and some said they would certainly re-enrol. There is a charm, about the wild, nomadic freedom of the prairie, which appears perfectly fascinating.

56. Some said they had cause for complaint last year, and I believe they had that is past and remedied, it was quite inseparable from the condition of things at the time, a raw force, hastily recruited without time for selection, and thrust forth with but partial discipline, or sufficient time for preparation upon a long and harassing march with unavoidable privations, which would have tried the metal of veteran troops.

57. The force had then in its ranks men who would have been weeded out of it had there been time, discontented adventurers who only engaged for pastime, but who grumbled and deserted when they found real service and some risk of life instead of the idleness they expected.

58. In all bodies of men some will be found who are ready to complain on the smallest excuse. The North West police are still no doubt subject to what gently nurtured citizens of every day routine, with a comfortable roof over their heads every night, would stamp as utter discomfort; new outposts have to be formed and built, involving exposure and labour, wood to be cut, water to be drawn, cooking performed on camp fires, their canvas tents dripping with the heavy dews of night, horses to be herded and tended with all the usual roughing of a camp life, but they breathe the clear pure air of the mountain or the prairie, their necessary wants of food and covering are carefully supplied, their pay and prospects ample and liberal, sickness is unknown, or very exceptional, their daily lives are never irksome, and above all they have the conscious knowledge that they are the pioneers in a rich and fertile territory, magnificently spacious, though still strangely solitary and silent, which at no distant

time will reecho with the busy life of a numerous and a prosperous population, their lives are tinged in the flower perfumed prairies over which their duty leads them with an adventurous romance which was frequently demonstrated, in the long and sometimes very toilsome marches we made together.

59. The police have now no real cause of complaint which their officers are not ready and willing to redress on fair representation. They know it and admit it, but unfortunately there are in all communities, men of sour and discontented spirits who complain for the sake of notoriety, and who prefer either to appear in print or to write frivolous and vexatious appeals to their too credulous correspondents.

60. Such persons (happily, very exceptional) had better quit a useful and a valuable body of patriotic men, they deserve no attention.

ARMS.

61. These consist of the Snider Carbine, and the Deane and Adams revolver. The carbine is an excellent serviceable weapon, but the pistols which were obtained from the war department are of very inferior quality and almost untrustworthy. I hear they have been already condemned and reported upon. The recruits are provided with the improved Smith and Wesson, but this pistol is very liable to get out of order and the severe cold is apt to snap the extractor spring. I believe there is no better horse-pistol than the improved Adams a supply of which has just been received and is ready for issue, it is simple, strong, and in all respects, serviceable; the force should have a reliable pistol.

62. Many of the carbines require repair; naturally, in the rough work to which they are exposed on the prairies they must get out of order, it is very necessary that two or three armourers should be supplied, as well as tools and materials for repair; one experienced artificer would be sufficient were the force concentrated, but widely detached as it in the nature of its duties always must be, one or two more are necessary.

With regard to equipment and uniform, I beg to refer you to the confidential report.

THE LOCATION OF THE DIFFERENT POSTS TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE DUTIES OF THE FORCE AND THE PROBABLE SETTLEMENT OF LARGE TRACTS OF COUNTRY AT AN EARLY DATE, AND THE PUBLIC WORKS ABOUT BEING CONSTRUCTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORIES.

63. Under this head it is natural I should first notice the position selected for Head Quarters of the force. In doing this I merely express the views of a General Officer to whom might be entrusted the task of occupying the territory to the best Military advantage. I am quite aware, however, that many reasons apart from and far

exceeding mere military strategy must weigh with the Government, in such a case, and I have no doubt Swan River has been selected for sound considerations.

In considering the conditions which should form a guide for the selection of a Head Quarter Station, the following might be kept in view:

64. It is important that the Officer commanding the force should receive the earliest intelligence of any disturbance which might occur amongst the cosmopolitan and mixed races which inhabit the Territory.

65. Were a post selected much to the westward of Fort Ellice it would be beyond the junction of the great trails leading from the Cypress Hills and the Saskatchewan. It is no doubt advisable that the Head Quarter post should be as near as possible to the main trails and also to the line of telegraph and railway projected to pass through the Territory.

66. Where the delay and the cost of transport are so enormous, it follows that the nearer the Head Quarter is to the base of supply the less expense will be incurred in the maintenance of the Force.

67. Therefore, wherever the Head Quarters is established there should be the main granary and provision depot to which I have alluded.

68. Good land on which to grow oats, potatoes, plenty of good pasture and hay land, timber and water are all necessary requisites for the Head Quarters, and, indeed, for every detachment of the Force.

69. The vicinity of the South Saskatchewan where the railway will cross, probably fulfils the above conditions better than any other point, it is in the very heart and centre of the great North West Territory.

70. Failing that, the next point of most advantage which presents itself, is the vicinity of the Little Saskatchewan or Shoal Lake, but for strategic reasons, if the main supply depot is established, I infinitely prefer the former.

71. If, hereafter, it should be determined to establish the Head Quarter Station along the line of the Railway, at or near where it will cross the South Saskatchewan, the barrack buildings at Swan River would come in well for Railway purposes, or store depots, and for quarters for a small party of police, in view of the fertile country north and east of the Lake Manitoba being filled up by Icelanders and other settlers, which appears rapidly in progress. Hitherto some scattered and peaceable remnants of Indian tribes have been the chief occupants of the country, south of the grand rapids, but the information afforded me does not hold out prospect of the land immediately north of the Swan River being well calculated for settlement, it is said to be rugged, stony, and broken, covered with a forest of dwarf timber on shallow soil

SHOAL LAKE.

72. Shoal Lake, here a small post has been established with excellent judgment, its commands the trail from Manitoba westward, and prevents the spirit trade; it is pleasantly placed by the lake shore, and affords every facility for cultivation on a large scale, it moreover serves as a check upon the Salteaux Indians near Portage Laprairie.

CARLTON.

73. Carlton, a small party was left there on my passing through, I do not know whether they still remain, and I doubt the necessity for them, there being no inhabitants at Carlton House except the officials and clerks of the Hudson Bay Company, the nearest settlement is that of French Half breeds at St. Laurent, distant 18 miles, on the right bank of the South Saskatchewan and Prince Albert Mission Station, distant 40 miles, at the forks of its two branches. From the latter settlement supplies of every kind are sent to Carlton, which produces nothing.

74. From Carlton to Edmonton, 400 miles, police are not required. Forts Pitt and Victoria are little frequented Hudson's Bay posts, occupied by clerks and some retired officials. Along that entire distance of 400 miles I met no living soul except one travelling half breed and the monthly postman, but nature denotes it to be the future abode of a large population, it must be inhabited, its balmy climate is inviting, warm and genial in the summer, and though the winters cold lasts long the snow does not lie deep, and stock can pasture out all through the year; the land is rich and fertile, and would produce all cereal crops, covered with the most luxuriant herbage and wild vetches, plenty of wood, abundance of water, and I believe, all the way north, till the verge of the great sub-arctic forest is touched, the isothermal lines indicate that the climate is mild and it is well known that the soil is suitable to maintain a dense population.

STURGEON CREEK POST.

75. Here, 20 miles North of Edmonton, where the Saskatchewan makes its first great easterly sweep, a Post has been established on the right bank of that river, nearly opposite the confluence of Sturgeon Creek. It is 50 miles from St. Ann's, the extreme North West settlement, and but 12 miles from St. Albert, while Victoria lies 60 miles eastward of the same river.

76. The position of this post is better than at Edmonton. Its moral effect is felt all over the settlements, 2 or 3 constables in Edmonton itself, might be useful. Many of the half-breeds from St. Ann's and St. Albert have latterly, to the extent of about one-third migrated elsewhere, preferring to leave their farms for a hunting life, the half-breed as a rule does not like farm work, he takes delight in his horse and gun.

77. White settlers hereabouts are as yet few, but they have been very successful with their farms, since the police post has been established.

78. Claims all round for several miles have been taken, and the boundaries staked out. A few shanties also have been built, and a good number of persons from St. Albert have expressed an intention of moving here, owing to the bad quality of water at certain seasons in the Sturgeon Lake and River. There are but few Indians about these settlements now.

79. The communication between this post and the outer world is interrupted by long intervals, often of months. A monthly mail is greatly needed, they are at present very isolated and solitary. I suggest they be supplied with books and papers, to lighten the tedium of the long cold months of winter.

80. They have no medical advice within 300 miles, and inaccessible. I suggest the establishment of a medical officer here, for the police as well as for the settlements all round. Indians look upon medical skill with profound respect.

81. Since the establishment of this post, the liquor trade has ceased; and as a consequence, there has been no attempt to break the law.

82. In January it was reported that liquor trade was carried on at Buffalo Lake. 130 miles south, and a party under Inspector Jarvis went in search but without success.

83. There is a hunting camp and a considerable settlement of half-breeds about that lake, as well as several free traders. The fall and winter are the seasons for trade and traders following hunting camps all over the Western prairies with their goods, subject to the emigration of the buffalo.

84. It is suggested that a portion of the troop from Sturgeon Creek should be permanently stationed at Tail Creek near Buffalo Lake, a fertile country, likely to become a populous settlement; it would moreover be a connecting link with Fort McLeod, 200 miles distant, and with the new post just established at the confluence of Swift Creek with Bow River from which it would be only about 100 miles distant, in fact these two posts will form a direct line of communication between Fort McLeod and Edmonton, the distance between each being something over 100 miles.

BOW RIVER.

85. The Bow River post was established on my march south by detaching the troop awaiting my orders at Red Deer River.

86. Lieutenant Colonel McLeod had, with good judgment, fixed on the spot, and made all arrangements.

87. The Hudson's Bay Company, had, years ago, tried to maintain a post there, but their agents were intimidated by the Blackfeet Indians and soon driven away.

88. Since the establishment of law and order in this remote region by the powerful moral effect of the Mounted Police they have again established a new post lower down the river than the old one.

89. Owing to the Blackfeet having ceased trading furs at Rocky Mountain House, that post of the Hudson's Bay Company has been abandoned for the more southerly source of trade.

90. The Stoney Indians, a mild and docile tribe, have now undisturbed occupation of the Country west of Gull Lake hills to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

91. The most inviting facilities for a populous settlement exist around this new post (Swift creek) near which Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions are already established; but indeed, it may be accepted, that all along the eastern slopes and ridges of the Rocky Mountains, from the American Boundary to the Arctic Forest for full 600 miles, productive land exists in plenty, among the sheltered recesses and glades of this great chain whose spurs and ridges stretch far away into the prairie; the settler will find timber and water in abundance and the fertility of the loamy soil there, as well as along the plateaux bordering the Battle, Red Deer, and the Bow Rivers, offer all that can be desired for agriculture and stock farming.

92. In order to ensure uninterrupted communication throughout the summer along the line, I have referred to, it will be quite necessary to maintain at least one row boat and one scow, as ferries, upon each of the rivers above named as well as on the White Mud and Blind Man rivers, often so swollen as to intercept travel for days and weeks together.

93. As the country fills with population bridges will no doubt be constructed to complete the great arterial communication throughout this Western Land towards the Canada Pacific Railway.

FORT MCLEOD.

94. Selected by Assistant Commissioner McLeod, 4000 feet above the sea level and 50 miles from the Kootenay pass, it is well chosen for shelter from the winter winds, for wood and water, and for agriculture, but it is faulty as a military site, being easily assailed by an enemy finding shelter within short range from the wooded banks of Old Man's River, and other ravines close by. I believe, however, the advantages quite outweigh these defects. There is little prospect of the post being attacked by any body.

95. It stands 30 miles North West from Whoop-up or Fort Hamilton, till the arrival of the police the resort of several hundred smugglers, illicit traders, plunderers and outlaws of every kind.

96. It derives its supplies from Helena and Benton in Montana, 400 and 260

miles distant respectively, over open prairie intersected by many mountain streams of delicious water and nearly always fordable.

97. Indians in large numbers frequent the vicinity of this post in winter, to hunt the Buffalo which invariably draw from the plains towards the mountains for the winter months, they evince a most friendly disposition and their intercourse with the party at the post is without constraint.

98. The actual presence of the police here has been sufficient to spread a respect for law and order throughout the country, liquor trading has totally ceased, the wild lawless band at Whoop-up dispersed at their approach. The Indians are confident of protection and security. The country lies with open arms demanding only an industrious population to till its productive and still virgin soil.

99. It has been said, why I know not, unless through the green eye of envy or of prejudice, that this force is a complete failure, that they have done nothing, are of no use, but a source of great expense to the Dominion. Such remarks have been levelled against this admirable body of men, but such remarks, I believe, may be fairly imputed to persons who are very ignorant of the magnificent spaciousness of the vast North West Territory, and especially of the necessity for protection of the trading posts in the remote regions of the West, where the fur trade is chiefly carried on upon which, up till recently, the country alone depended.

100. Take the difference between the trade in furs this year and three years ago. More furs have been brought down this year to the settlement than for the last three years put together. One man alone traded 6000 Buffalo robes.

101. The question will naturally arise why is this? Because before the establishment of the police the traders on both sides of the boundary line used ardent spirits and poisonous alcohol to traffic with the Indians and half-breed hunters for furs.

102. While our traders used liquor they could compete with the Americans, but after the passing of the liquor prohibitory law, and before the establishment of the Mounted Police, our traders had no chance at all, as the Americans still continued to barter liquor for furs, until the last year's expedition of the Police westward, and the establishment of Fort McLeod, the Cypress Hills post, and a small party at Qu'Appelle and Wood Mountain along the American frontier, put a stop entirely to their crossing the line to carry on their nefarious trade in liquor.

103. Thus our hunters and traders gained confidence, and they now do a splendid trade in furs for which they thank the services and presence of the Mounted Police.

104. For every thousand robes that formerly were shipped from Bow River and other trading posts down the Missouri River to the American market, I am credibly informed not one hundred are now sent.

105. Our hunters and traders this year have trebled their orders for trading goods, and outfits for the West.

106. A glance at the Custom House returns in Manitoba for May and June would show that the Government have received through that office no less than 30,000 dollars as duty paid on imported goods for the trade in the far West.

107. Those goods come principally from England and it may be said that, were it not for that Western trade, the merchants in the Province of Manitoba would be in a bad way.

108. I am told that more than 600,000 dollars worth of goods went west from Winnipeg last summer before July, this would not have occurred unless the hunters and traders had full confidence in the security of the country, but the presence of the police have given confidence and encouragement all round, and they have therefore imported three times the quantity more than usual. And so, since the abominable liquor traffic has been stopped by the Police, our traders and hunters, with English goods, are doing well, for the Indians prefer English goods to American.

109. For the last few years the North West has depended solely on the fur trade, the depredations of the grass-hoppers, a fearful scourge, with which Manitoba was afflicted, having destroyed the growing crops, and therefore to continue that trade with success in competition with the Americans it is only necessary to maintain the police force, now so judiciously and usefully posted.

110. The benefit to the Indians from the presence of the Mounted Police is strikingly apparent. Formerly they bartered horses, clothing, buffalo robes, every thing, for the maddening "fire-water," the result was drunkenness, squalor, murder, and robbery, chaos let loose all among the tribes. What a change has been the immediate result of the power of the law to repress crime.

111. The Indians barter their buffalo robes for blankets, cloth, tea, sugar, flour, etc., etc., the nefarious crime of horse-stealing has greatly diminished because now they can buy horses with robes, instead of bartering them for alcohol as formerly to be replaced by battle, murder, and theft. Dealers have this year gone into British Columbia to purchase mountain ponies to trade with Indians. 300 last year paid duty at McLeod where a Custom House post is established, and custom duties collected regularly, large sums in cash and orders amounting to 3,000 dollars, having been collected previous to my arrival there.

CYPRESS HILLS.

112. Cypress Hills.—I regret extremely that time did not admit of my visiting this very interesting and important post, but having to go 500 miles already out of my way to visit Fort Shaw, and it being advisable to get through the intricate defiles of the Rocky Mountains before the equinox, I reluctantly gave up an inspection of the Cypress Hills post

113. The country around it, I hear, cannot be surpassed for beauty and fertility, all the requisites for a populous and thriving settlement lie around, and the presence of the police ensures protection.

114. It lies somewhere about 180 miles due east from McLeod, and about 60 miles north of the International boundary.

115. I understand that many, if not all, the families who had settled around Wood Mountain, 200 miles further east, and close to the frontier, had expressed their intention of changing their abode to Cypress Hills.

QU'APPELLE.

116. Qu'Appelle, a small party has recently been sent here from Swan River; their presence is useful on account of the Indians round that country, and probably it will be found a desirable post to maintain permanently.

117. Direct communication between McLeod and Manitoba might be established, if the party at Wood Mountain fell back to a position upon or near Old Woman's Lake, thus making a chain of frontier posts, round some, if not all, of which, settlements would rapidly spring up, would then be fairly complete.

THE EFFICIENCY OF THE OFFICERS, CONSTABLES AND SUB-CONSTABLES, WITH WHOM YOU MAY COME IN CONTACT.

118. I have touched generally upon the above points in various passages of the foregoing report. I feel it somewhat delicate to enter specifically into the subject, particularly as my rapid journey through the North-West, which was a matter of necessity, did not enable me to spend sufficient time at any one place to gain an intimate knowledge of the character and attainments of individuals which should guide me in arriving at a just estimation.

119. With the two principal Officers, the Commissioner, and Assistant Commissioner, I had much personal intercourse, one marched with me 300, and the other 700 miles.

120. What I have said in my confidential report has been expressed in all candour, and my long military experience of character gives me confidence in the accuracy of my conclusions.

121. With regard to the divisional Officers I cannot speak so confidently, but I shall place opposite their names my remarks from personal observation, and casual acquaintance as well as from enquiry, in my separate confidential memorandum.

122. Of the Constables and Sub-constables I can speak generally, that they are an able body of men, of excellent material, and conspicuous for willingness, endurance, and, as far as I can learn, integrity of character.

123. They are fairly disciplined, but there has hardly been an opportunity yet for maturing discipline to the extent desirable in bodies of armed men, and, dispersed as they are, through the immensity of space without much communication with Headquarters, a great deal must depend upon the individual intelligence, acquirements and steadiness of the Inspectors in perfecting discipline, drill, interior economy, equitation, and care of horses, saddlery and equipment, together with Police duties on which they might be occasionally required.

124. I confess I think some of the Inspectors fall short of the power, the ability, or the attainments, necessary for such a wide sphere of instruction; and of the younger Officers, (Sub-inspectors), it can hardly be expected that many of them are calculated as yet to teach; they have, as a rule, much to learn themselves, though there are some conspicuous exceptions.

125. The constables and sub-constables, I have every reason to believe are now quite contented, and many of them will, I think, re-enrol.

126. I consider they would be further encouraged to do so, if their grants of land were laid out near the posts where they are stationed.

127. The Canadians from rural districts are all able to ride, but there is a material difference between sitting on a horse without falling off, in other words, riding by balance, with a heavy hold of the bridle, and horsemanship proper and equitation is absolutely necessary, considering the immense distances they have to march on horse-back.

128. In the first case the rider of a horse carrying 150 or 200 pounds weight swaying about in his saddle with long stirrups and grasping his horse's sides no-where will infallibly give him a sore back before many days.

129. In the other case a firm seat, legs well placed, and a light hand on the rein, will not only not injure the horse, but will cause him far less fatigue and enable him to do more work with less loss of condition.

130. This can only be acquired by equitation.

131. Again, much depends upon saddling a horse and taking care that every strap and buckle is in the right place, no crease in the blanket, no chafe any where.

132. I noticed that few of the Mounted Police knew how to saddle a horse; as a rule they go to the wrong (the near) side, and throw the saddle with carbine, wallets, girths, and straps, on his back trusting to good luck for them all to be settled in their proper places. I saw, for instance, one man who had as usual saddled his horse in this fashion dismounting at the end of a 5 hour's morning march, and finding he had girthed his horse with the off panel of his saddle doubled, and in consequence the horse had a raw on his side that threw him out of work for a month.

ANY SUGGESTIONS I MAY HAVE TO OFFER.

133. I have touched very slightly upon questions of organization, equipment, and discipline of the force, having entered more fully into these in the confidential report. But there are a few other subjects to be referred to before closing this Report which I regret to see has assumed proportions far beyond my attention.

134. A searching enquiry is necessary into the nature of the hoof disease among horses at Edmonton, it has fallen with fearful effects on the police and other horses in that neighbourhood, supposed to be an insect which eats into the hoof in a short time; it is very painful and when not attended properly the horse dies.

135. Applications of Carbolic acid have produced good results, the disease is said to be engendered by swamps which are common there.

136. I suggested that horses should not be sent to Sturgeon Creek, until full information had been gained about this disease.

137. This summer a steamer ascended the North Saskatchewan for the first time as far as Edmonton from Grand Rapids near Lake Winnipeg. Certainly the navigation of both branches of this mighty river abounding with coal and other mineral wealth for many hundred miles, will open up the country for settlement, reduce the price of transport and provisions, and become one of the many causes tending to produce a new order of things and abolish monopoly.

138. While it may be considered that 300 men are enough to maintain order in the North-West, it is evident that this force would be insufficient to put down a serious outbreak, should such a very unlikely misfortune occur. It would be difficult to collect more than 100 effective men of the force at a given point in a reasonable time.

139. Militia are not available in the North West Territory, nor do I consider a mixture of the military and civil element at all desirable. There is sufficient of the military character about the police, and they have the advantage that every man is a limb of the law, whereas military cannot act without a magistrate or constable.

140. Therefore it is suggested that volunteer police or bodies of special constables should be formed at such settlements as Prince Albert, St. Albert, St. Ann's, and St. Laurent, these men to be subject while on duty to the same rules as the regular police.

141. An additionnal means for providing such a reserve would be gained, if around each post occupied by the police, a suitable quantity of land was set apart for members of the force, thus allowing men to improve land during their service and eventually provide a large reserve of well trained and trust worthy men.

142. I have purposely refrained from alluding to a representation made to me at Kootenay Village that 50 police should be stationed there as a protection against Indians said to be growing insolent and claiming territorial rights of property.

143. The small population of about 100 whites and 150 Chinese might on small pretext or by accident become entangled in a quarrel with the Indians, who could massacre them all.

144. The district embraces 32,000 square miles, and in 1864, during the gold mania, had 1500 people who were strong enough for self protection, now they are not, but I am not prepared to advocate sending a detachment of Mounted Police through the fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains more especially as this force being raised for special service in the North West Territory (Military reasons apart,) should not be called upon for duty in British Columbia.

145. I am of opinion a force is required at Joseph's prairie or Wild Horse Creek, and that its arrival there would be followed by a numerous settlement, the land being spacious and fertile, and the climate bracing and salubrious.

146. A much more practicable pass than the Kootenay is known to exist along the valley of Elk River through which the Eastern prairie can be reached without any sensible ascent; there is no trail through it, but as a means of communication between McLeod and British Columbia, as well as for generally opening up that region, I strongly recommend a complete examination of that line of valleys, and their being opened for traffic, probably by wheeled transport; by this route supplies of grain and other necessities could be more cheaply obtained at Fort McLeod than at present, and a general extension of trade would certainly result.

147. I understand that a bonded line is to be shortly formed in the United States on the Northern Pacific Railway and Missouri River for the transport of bonded goods to Fort Benton and thence across the line north.

148. It is of great consequence that this avenue of trade should be guarded by a thorough system of Customs Regulations appropriate to the peculiar situation of the country; therefore I consider that the officers commanding all the border outposts of police, Cypress Mills, Wood Mountain, Qu'Appelle, and Shoal Lake, should have full and special instructions if not actually given the functions of collectors of dues.

149. I have ventured to enter very explicitly into the various questions referred to me in your letter. I have preferred running the risk of being considered prolix rather than be supposed to have taken a superficial view of this very important subject.

150. Too much value cannot be attached to the North West Police, too much attention cannot be paid to their efficiency.

151. We read that not long ago these wild Indian tribes of the far West were accustomed to regard murder as honorable war, robbery and pillage as traits most ennobling to mankind; the Blackfeet, Crees, Salteaux, Assiboynes, the Peigans, among the most savage of the wild races of Western America, free from all restraint and any sort of control, waged indiscriminate war with each other and with mankind.

152. Law, order, and security for life and property were little observed; civil and legal institutions almost entirely unknown.

153. To day what a revolution can we see :—all these have given place to peace and security, prosperity, contentment, and good will, it remains only to satisfy the Indian tribes by entering into fair and just treaties, which they much desire; but in carrying this into effect, the utmost caution is necessary to convince them that their spacious hunting grounds are still open to them, for they will follow the buffalo as long as the buffalo continues to exist.

154. The appointment of Magistrates, and encouragement of Missionary labour are questions also becoming prominent in the dawning development of that noble territory, not long ago only known to the wild Indians of the mountain, the forest, and the prairie, to the dissipated, nomadic, half breed, and to the hardy trapper, but now silently and patiently awaiting the approach of the immense wave of human life which must shortly overrun the fair and productive soil of those remote and beautiful solitudes.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

E. SELBY SMYTH,

Major General.

The Honorable

The Minister of Justice,

Ottawa.